

## **REMARKS**

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Abstract has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-11 and 22 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. New Claim 22 has been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,968,058 to *Kondoh et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of a receiving unit which receives second image data and second authentication data from an external device, and an authentication unit which has (a) a first authentication mode where the authentication unit authenticates, using first authentication data, whether first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where the authentication unit authenticates, using the second authentication data, whether the second image data has been altered. With these features, the imaging apparatus can perform authentication of either image data generated by the apparatus or image data generated by a second imaging apparatus and received from an external device.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1. The Office Action cites Column 9, lines 23-37 of *Kondoh et al.* as mentioning second alteration detection data that is generated in a device external to a camera. Applicant submits, however, that the cited portion of *Kondoh et al.* only refers to alteration detection data that is generated in an external device, and it does not disclose or suggest receiving image data generated in a second imaging apparatus and received from an external device. Moreover, that patent does not disclose or suggest that the second alteration detection data generated in an external device is used to authenticate second image data that is received from an external device. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest at least the receiving unit and the authentication unit as those features are recited in independent Claim 1.

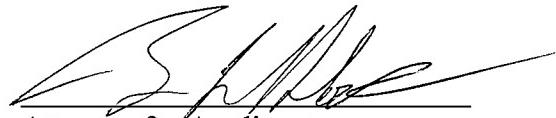
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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